

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method for predicting the current frame of data in a digital coding system wherein a signal is segmented into frames of data that are sequentially encoded, said system including a base layer and an enhancement layer, said base layer including a base encoder and a base decoder, said enhancement layer including an enhancement encoder, an enhancement layer estimator, and an enhancement decoder, said base decoder producing a reconstructed signal, said enhancement layer estimator producing a prediction of said current frame of data, said enhancement decoder producing an enhanced reconstructed signal, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~predicting the current frame of data at the enhancement layer by processing and combining~~ applying the reconstructed data representing the current base layer frame and the reconstructed data representing the previous enhancement layer frame as inputs to the enhancement layer estimator; and

predicting the current frame of data at the enhancement layer by processing and combining said inputs.

Claims 2-14 (canceled)

15. (new): An apparatus for predicting the current frame of data in a digital coding system wherein a signal is segmented into frames of data that are sequentially encoded, said system including a base layer and an enhancement layer, said base layer including a base encoder and a base decoder, said enhancement layer including an enhancement encoder, an enhancement layer estimator, and an enhancement decoder, said base decoder producing a reconstructed signal, said enhancement layer estimator producing a prediction of said current frame of data, said enhancement

decoder producing an enhanced reconstructed signal, said apparatus comprising:

means for applying the reconstructed data representing the current base layer frame and the reconstructed data representing the previous enhancement layer frame as inputs to the enhancement layer estimator; and

means for predicting the current frame of data at the enhancement layer by processing and combining said inputs.